



## Working to Help the Victims of Sexual, Domestic Violence

In 2005 — as it unveiled the newest statewide Uniform Crime Report (2004) data — the Attorney General's Office had positive news for New Jerseyans. Overall, the state's crime rate had dropped by 4 percent compared to the prior year, and the rate of violent crime had declined by 2 percent.

But along with evidence of a generally safer New Jersey came some sobering news as well: the number of sexual assaults statewide had actually increased by 4 percent in 2004 (from 1,283 reported assaults in 2003 to 1,328.)

The new UCR numbers were troubling, and they confirmed that sexual assault remained not only a public safety problem unlike any other, but one that would require innovation — and a long-term commitment of resources — to effectively address.

### Training Sexual Assault Response Teams

Consistent with this philosophy, the Attorney General's Office continued in 2005 to refine and strengthen available services for rape victims through its ground-breaking Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SART/SANE) initiative.

In April 2005, Attorney General Harvey announced that more than 100 county Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Board members from throughout New Jersey had completed a mandatory training session focused on newly-revised "Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault." The project was conducted by Jessica Oppenheim, Linda Rinaldi, and Connie Schwedes in the Division of Criminal Justice.

The new, higher standards were designed to enhance preparation and training for SART/SANE personnel, and to reaffirm the idea that SART/SANE is a victim-focused program — a safe way for sexual assault victims to come forward without fear of being victimized a second or third time by the same system that is supposed to be helping them.

The new standards for victim services were

created on the basis of recommendations by the Attorney General's SART/SANE Coordinating Council, which included representation from the Division of Criminal Justice, the New Jersey County Prosecutors Association, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, New Jersey Board of Nursing, New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the New Jersey Division on Women. The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) also provided significant resources to the statewide program.

Under the SART/SANE initiative, special Sexual Assault Response Teams are stationed in all New Jersey counties. The teams are located within the 21 respective County Prosecutors Offices, and are made up of rape care advocates, law enforcement officers and registered professional nurses who serve as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). The services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The

SART/SANE concept is founded entirely on a "team" approach, and one of its chief objectives is to ensure that every victim of sexual assault has access to quality health care treatment, and in a timely fashion.

Under SART/SANE, the victims of sexual assault are provided quick and thorough care in well equipped, specialized facilities. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners work collaboratively with police officers and rape care advocates to provide the best services available, while always ensuring that a victim's needs, concerns and questions are addressed.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are specially trained to provide comprehensive and sensitized care, while also making sure that potential evidence is collected in a manner that is timely, precise, and in keeping with law enforcement protocols. Rape Care Advocates, meanwhile, are trained to provide support services for the

*The Attorney General's SART/SANE initiative provides victims of sexual violence with compassionate, post-victimization health care. It also provides victims with support in dealing with the necessary, but sometimes stressful, criminal justice process.*



## Statewide SART/ SANE Program — Participating Hospitals by County

<b>Atlantic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlantic City Medical Ctr., Atlantic City</li> <li>Atlantic Kessler, Hammonton</li> <li>Atlantic Shore Memorial, Somers Point</li> </ul>
<b>Bergen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Englewood, Englewood</li> <li>Hackensack, Hackensack</li> <li>Holy Name, Teaneck</li> <li>Pascack Valley, Westwood</li> <li>Valley, Ridgewood</li> </ul>
<b>Burlington</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Ctr., Willingboro</li> <li>Virtua Hospital, Marlton</li> <li>Virtua Hospital, Mount Holly</li> </ul>
<b>Camden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooper Health Systems, Camden</li> <li>Kennedy Health Systems, Stratford</li> <li>Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Ctr., Camden</li> </ul>
<b>Cape May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burdette Tomlin, Cape May Court House</li> </ul>
<b>Cumberland Essex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Medical Ctr., Vineland</li> <li>Clara Maass, Belleville</li> <li>Hospital of the University of Medicine &amp; Dentistry, Newark</li> <li>Newark Beth Israel, Newark</li> <li>St. Barnabas, Livingston</li> </ul>
<b>Gloucester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kennedy Memorial, Washington Twp.</li> <li>Underwood-Memorial, Woodbury</li> </ul>
<b>Hudson Hunterdon Mercer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christ, Jersey City</li> <li>Hunterdon Medical Ctr., Flemington</li> <li>Capital Health System-Mercer Campus, Trenton</li> <li>Capital Health System-Helene Fuld, Trenton</li> <li>Princeton Medical Ctr., Princeton</li> <li>Robert Wood Johnson, Hamilton</li> </ul>
<b>Middlesex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middlesex County Public Health Department, Edison</li> <li>Robert Wood Johnson, New Brunswick</li> </ul>
<b>Monmouth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bayshore Community, Holmdel</li> <li>CentraState Medical Ctr., Freehold</li> <li>Jersey Shore Medical Ctr., Neptune</li> <li>Monmouth Medical Ctr., Long Branch</li> <li>Riverview Medical Ctr., Red Bank</li> </ul>
<b>Morris</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chilton Memorial, Pompton Plains</li> <li>Morristown Memorial, Morristown</li> <li>St. Claire's, Denville</li> <li>St. Claire's, Dover</li> </ul>
<b>Ocean</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Medical Ctr., Toms River</li> <li>Kimball Medical Ctr., Lakewood</li> <li>Brick Hospital, Brick</li> <li>Southern Ocean Community, Manahawkin</li> </ul>
<b>Passaic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Joseph's Hospital, Paterson</li> <li>The General Hospital, Passaic</li> </ul>
<b>Salem Somerset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Medical Ctr., Vineland</li> <li>Somerset Medical Ctr., Somerville</li> <li>Women's Health &amp; Counseling Ctr., Somerville</li> </ul>
<b>Sussex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newton Memorial Hospital, Newton</li> <li>Sussex Hospital, Sussex</li> </ul>
<b>Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield</li> <li>Overlook Hospital, Summit</li> <li>Rahway Hospital, Rahway</li> <li>Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth</li> </ul>
<b>Warren</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg</li> <li>Hackettstown Community Hospital, Hackettstown</li> </ul>

victim through the medical and forensic examination, and beyond. Under the SART/SANE philosophy, the role of Rape Care Advocate is viewed as crucial to the post-victimization healing process. The job of a Rape Care Advocate is to focus solely on the needs of the sexual assault victim, whether those needs involve crisis intervention services, counseling and referral, information on available options, or other concerns.

Along with medical care and advocacy for rape victims, an equally vital goal of SART/SANE is to enable law enforcement to obtain the evidence required to successfully investigate and prosecute sex offenders. Police assigned to Sexual Assault Response Teams receive specialized training in the area of investigating sex crimes. At the same time, the SART/SANE approach emphasizes the need to create an environment in which women can feel comfortable while taking part in the essential — but sometimes difficult and emotional — process of working with law enforcement investigators and prosecutors. The benefit of such an approach is two-fold. On one hand, it ensures that victims will receive the kind of compassionate treatment they have a right to expect. In addition, it often helps increase the comfort level, and the resolve, of victims, making them better able to assist law enforcement in prosecuting their attackers.

Since its inception in 1996, the state-wide SART/SANE program has received more than \$3 million in funding from the Division of Criminal Justice through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy. There are 175 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and 55 New Jersey hospitals working as part of the statewide program. For information on becoming a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, call 609-984-7346. For information on becoming a Rape Care Advocate, call 609-631-

4450 or visit the Division of Criminal Justice Web site at [www.njdcj.org](http://www.njdcj.org).

## Domestic Violence Training

Domestic violence touches the lives of an estimated 80,000 people each year — most of them women, children and the aged. In 2002, more than 50 people died in New Jersey as the result of domestic violence, a 30 percent increase over the prior year.

Consistent with its ongoing commitment to address all forms of violence against women, the Attorney General's Office continued in 2005 to provide specialized training sessions for law enforcement in dealing with domestic violence and related issues. Through its Division of Criminal Justice, the Attorney General's Office provided advanced training courses designed to help law enforcement professionals gain a better understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, knowledge of related laws, and a thorough grasp of the elements required to effectively respond to, investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases.

Employing actors and experienced, knowledgeable instructors, the DCJ-sponsored training courses explore a full range of domestic-violence-related issues. The courses also provide specialized instruction to law enforcement personnel in dealing with domestic-violence-related incidents, which are often among the most sensitive — and potentially dangerous — incidents they handle. The training focuses on everything from the first call made to police to investigative techniques, recognition of legal issues involved, and the prosecution of formal charges. Victims of domestic violence are urged to call the New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-572-SAFE(7233).

## AG Harvey Honored for Work to Prevent Violence Against Women, Children

In November 2005, Attorney General Harvey was presented the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association's annual "Outstanding Service Award" for his commitment and leadership in the prevention of violence against women and children. The Attorney General was honored at the 8th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference, held at the Clarion Hotel in Egg Harbor Township, near Atlantic City, and co-hosted by the SART/SANE Program and the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association. Attorney General Harvey was chosen to receive the award for his active and visible support of SART/SANE, which has enabled the program to make a consistently positive impact on services provided to the victims of sexual assault.



*Attorney General Harvey is presented with the "Outstanding Service Award" of the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association in November 2005.*